

History

The Mason Neck peninsula is steeped in natural and cultural history. Encompassing 1,813 acres, the park is bordered by the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Pohick Bay Regional Park and the Gunston Hall Historical Facility. Combined, these areas provide over 5,600 acres dedicated to recreation and wildlife management.

The first recorded history of Mason Neck was by captain John Smith in 1608. He wrote of his meeting with the Dogue Indians and charted the chief’s village of Tauxenent on his map of Virginia. The area was referred to as Doggs Island and Doeg Neck originally. Later, the neck received its current name from the Mason family.

George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, built his home in 1755. His Georgian house and outbuildings at Gunston Hall Plantation are furnished and open to the public for tours.

During the 1800s and early 1900s, logging was the area’s primary industry. The removal of mature pine and hardwood, and the use of the pesticide DDT lead to the decline of the American Bald Eagle in the region.

In 1965 the Conservation Committee for Mason Neck formed to preserve the area from increasing development pressures. In July 1967, the Nature Conservancy made its first purchase of land to protect areas of Mason Neck until funds were appropriated to federal, state and local agencies.

The Commonwealth purchased its first parcel of what is now Mason Neck State Park in August 1967.

The park is now managed for passive recreation, environmental education and the protection and preservation of habitat for the American Bald Eagle and other animals in the area. Animals that frequent Mason Neck include: bald eagles, hawks, white-tailed deer, fox, beavers and over 200 species of birds.

While you visit Mason Neck State Park, please stop and take time to see and hear the natural world around you.

Rental Equipment

During the spring, summer and fall, Mason Neck State Park has bicycles, canoes and kayaks for rent. There’s no better way to explore the park than on one of these peices of recreational equipment. It also helps to promote a healthy lifestyle by giving you an opportunity to expend a few calories while exploring parts of the park that most guests never see. Rental equipment is available at the environmental center on a first come first served basis so make it out early and claim yours. Rates available on request.

Interpretive Opportunities

While at Mason Neck, stop in the visitor center and get a copy of our interpretive program brochure, which lists our upcoming program opportunities. Regularly scheduled programs include: children’s programs, hikes and canoe trips. Special events are scheduled during the summer months. For more information, contact the park at (703) 339-2380 about upcoming events.

Join us each year in April as we host the Liz Hartwell Eagle Festival on Mason Neck. Hartwell was instrumental in getting the state and others interested in buying and protecting land on Mason Neck to protect habitat for bald eagles. The day’s events usually include a 5K run/walk, music, live animal programs, activities, entertainers, hay rides, guided walks, talks, displays and exhibits, food and other activities. There’s a benefit golf tournament on Monday at near-by Pohick Bay Regional Park to benefit the Hartwell Foundation, sponsor of the event.

In late October you can join us for our Old Time Harvest Festival on Mason Neck. Arts and Crafts booths, food, music, demonstrations of old time skills such as squaring a log, blacksmithing, open fire cooking and others, old time games, hay rides, and other activities highlight this fall festival. A good time to buy gifts for those you love!

Enjoy your visit and come back again!

Frequent visitors save money

Annual passes for parking offer the frequent visitor greater savings. Stop by the park office for details.

Virginia State Parks Reservation Center

To receive more information on Virginia State Parks or to make a cabin or campsite reservation, call 1-800-933-PARK

Join us in the parks – DCR's Volunteer Program

DCR offers diverse opportunities for volunteers in most state parks and natural areas throughout the state. Inquire at the park office for details.

For more information, contact:

Mason Neck State Park
7301 High Point Road
Lorton, VA 22079
Visitor Center (703) 339-2380
Office (703) 339-2385

You can also visit our home page at www.dcr.virginia.gov



203 Governor St., Suite 302
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(800) 933-PARK

VIRGINIA

STATE PARKS

Mason Neck
State Park
Guide

Lorton, Virginia

Virginia State Parks provide
A Natural Legacy
of outdoor activities and
programs. They are an important
part of DCR’s efforts to promote
a strong conservation ethic.
These efforts ensure that the
best of Virginia’s natural
resources will be protected and
available for future generations.

Welcome to Mason Neck State Park. This peninsula on the shores of the Potomac River is rich in history, with large tracts of land preserved in their natural state. The state park is part of the Mason Neck Cooperative Management Area, which strives to provide an entire spectrum of outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities. The hiking trails, picnic areas, Environmental Education Center and interesting interpretive programs of Mason Neck State Park offer the best in passive outdoor recreation. We ask that you observe the following regulations to make your visit a safer and more pleasant one.



Pets are permitted in all state parks, but they must be kept in an enclosed area or on a leash, not to exceed six feet, at all times.



Swimming from the shoreline is not permitted. Boating traffic and underwater objects make swimming and wading hazardous.



The park is open for day use from 8 a.m. to dusk daily. The Environmental Education Center days and times vary by season.



Hiking trails are for pedestrians only. Bicycles are permitted only on regular park roads. No motorized vehicles are allowed on park trails.



Bay View Trail is a self-guided interpretive trail.



Canoe launch area is for canoes, sailboats and other small boats only. No ramp available.



Public use or display of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.



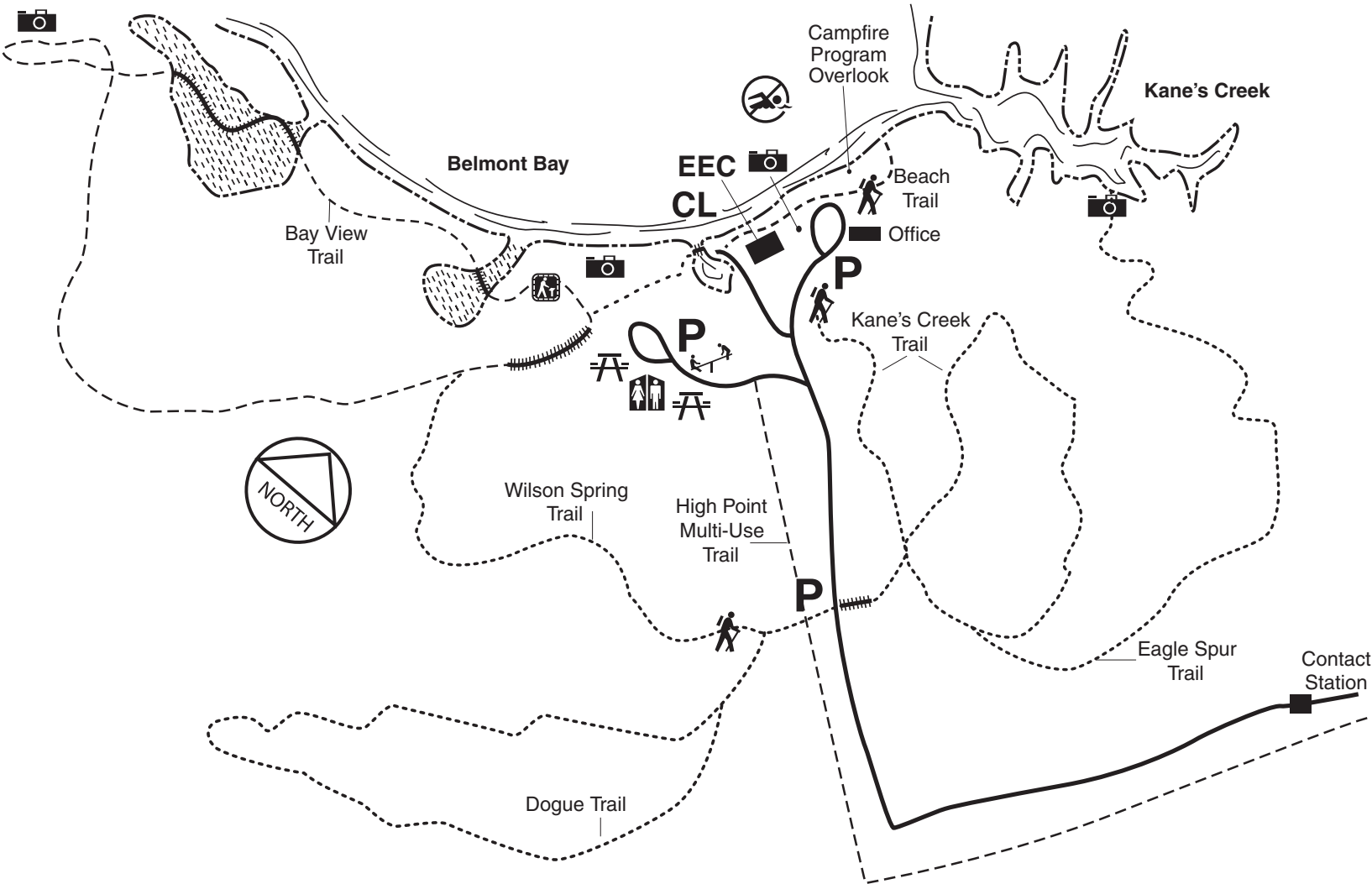
Parking is permitted in designated areas only.



Open fires are prohibited. Fires are permitted in grills and campstoves in the picnic areas only.



Please help us keep the park clean by placing litter in proper receptacles.



Color coding and mileage for the trails at Mason Neck State Park

Miles	Trail	Color
1.0	Kanes Creek Trail	Blue
1.0	Bay View Trail	Red
.75	Wilson Spring Trail	Yellow
.30	Beach Trail	Green
.80	Dogue Trail	Orange
1.25	Eagle Spur Trail	Silver
3.0	High Point Multi-Use Trail	

- CL** Canoe Launch
- Elevated Walkway
- Hiking Trail
- Marsh
- P** Parking
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Restrooms/ Comfort Station
- Scenic Overlook
- EEC** Environmental Education Center